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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/829,332	04/22/2004	Shigeharu Sumi	ND-US040342 (18.061-AG)	6793

29453 7590 10/05/2005

JUDGE PATENT FIRM
RIVIERE SHUKUGAWA 3RD FL.
3-1 WAKAMATSU-CHO
NISHINOMIYA-SHI, HYOGO, 662-0035
JAPAN

EXAMINER	
FOOTLAND, LENARD A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3682	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/829,332	SUMI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lenard A. Footland	3682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☒ Claim(s) 1-18 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group I: Claims 1-11, 17-18 drawn to a bearing, classified in Class 384, subclass 100.

Group II: Claims 12-16, drawn to a process of making a bearing and apparatus to do so, classified in Class 29, subclass 898+.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make an other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (M.P.E.P. § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process, for example, a process wherein a mechanical press is employed.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

IN THE EVENT THE PRODUCT INVENTION IS ELECTED, THE FOLLOWING SPECIES RESTRICTION IS ALSO REQUIRED:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: the species of Figure(s) 1-3, 5, versus that of Fig(s). 6 versus Fig(s). 7a-b.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

Applicant is advised that a response to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, AND A LISTING OF **ALL** CLAIMS READABLE THEREON (**NOT**, FOR EXAMPLE, "AT LEAST CLAIMS..."), INCLUDING **ANY CLAIMS SUBSEQUENTLY ADDED**, AND IF THE AMENDMENT OF ANY CLAIMS RESULTS IN A CHANGE OF THE SPECIES THEY READ UPON, THAT TOO SHOULD BE INDICATED. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN A HOLDING OF NONRESPONSIVENESS. (*NOTE THAT ANY "SCHEMATICALLY" ILLUSTRATED ELECTED SPECIES MAY NOT SCHEMATICALLY REPRESENT PLURAL EMBODIMENT VARYING CLAIMED FEATURES, UNLESS CLARIFIED BY DRAWING CORRECTIONS, TO BE RESPONSIVE.*) An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.[1]

[1] Applicants may wish to consider listing claims readable with care in view of the possible consequences of having to later cancel them.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. M.P.E.P. § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of the other invention.

The elected species is limited to the features set forth in the elected figures, and does not include features not illustrated in those figures, or illustrated in other figures. Accordingly, applicant should review all claims to ensure that all features of the elected species are properly illustrated, as required, in order to avoid a holding that an unillustrated feature does not form part of the elected species.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lenard A. Footland, whose telephone number is (571) 272-7103.

Lenard A. Footland

Primary Examiner

Technology Center 3600

Art Unit 3682

laf
September 30, 2005